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Security Council

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Letter dated 10 April 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 10 April 2000, from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-38713 (E) 110400

Annex

Letter dated 10 April 2000 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the Secretary-General

I would be grateful if you could arrange to transmit the attached letter to the President of the Security Council (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Mohamed **ElBaradei**

Enclosure

Letter dated 10 April 2000 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 1051 (1996), the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was requested to submit consolidated progress reports every six months to the Security Council, commencing 11 April 1996[1] on the Agency verification activities in Iraq pursuant to paragraphs 12 and 13 of resolution 687 (1991) and other related resolutions.

As has been previously reported, the Agency has not been in a position, since 16 December 1998, to implement its mandate in Iraq under the relevant Security Council resolutions. It is thus unable to provide any measure of assurance with regard to Iraq's compliance with its obligations under those resolutions. In this context, I should record, again, that the Agency has not received from Iraq the semi-annual declarations required by paragraph 22 and Annex 2 of the Agency's ongoing monitoring and verification plan. These semi-annual declarations are the principal means for Iraq to provide information regarding the current use and any changes in the use of certain facilities, installations and sites and regarding the inventory and location of certain materials, equipment and isotopes. The semi-annual declarations were due on 15 January 1999, 15 July 1999 and 15 January 2000.

As I recalled in my letter to the President of the Council of 10 December 1999 (S/2000/120), during the time IAEA was able to perform its mandate in Iraq pursuant to the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions, the activities which it was to carry out pursuant to Iraq's Safeguards Agreement with the Agency in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons were subsumed under the activities pursuant to the Security Council resolutions. However, in the light of the fact that the latter activities had ceased in December 1998, and given the requirements of the IAEA safeguards system, mentioned in my letter of 10 December, a five-person IAEA team carried out a physical inventory verification of the nuclear material in Iraq between 22 and 25 January 2000.

As I informed the IAEA Board of Governors during its recent meeting, the Agency inspectors were able to verify the nuclear material subject to safeguards, which consists of low enriched, natural and depleted uranium. Iraq provided the necessary cooperation for the inspection team to perform its activities effectively and efficiently, even though the inspection, planned initially for December, could take place only in January because of the delay in the provision of the necessary visas by the Government of Iraq.

The inspection had the limited objective of verifying the nuclear material in question. It was not intended, nor could it serve, as a substitute for the Agency's activities under the relevant Security Council resolutions. The resumption by the Agency of these activities is essential for the Agency to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it under those resolutions and to provide the necessary assurances sought by the Council.

The Agency maintains an operational plan for the resumption of its verification activities in Iraq and would be able to respond, on short notice, to a request from the Security Council to resume those activities in Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for this letter to be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed **ElBaradei**

Notes

[1] The previous consolidated reports of the Director General of IAEA were circulated in document S/1996/261 of 11 April 1996, document S/1996/833 of 7 October 1996, document S/1997/297 of 11 April 1997, document S/1997/779 of 8 October 1997, document S/1998/312 of 9 April 1998, document S/1998/927 of 7 October 1998, document S/1999/393 of 7 April 1999 and document S/1999/1035 of 7 October 1999. Document S/1998/694, dated 27 July 1998, contained the text of an interim status report provided in response to the statement of the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/1998/11) dated 14 May 1998. Document S/1999/127, dated 9 February 1999, contained the text of an interim status report provided in response to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/1999/100) dated 30 January 1999.